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Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-09 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14 USIA-12 IO-12

DPW-01 AID-20 SR-02 ORM-03 RSR-01 OMB-01 /119 W
---------- 003262
R 231241 Z MAR 73
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9128
AMCONSUL BIEN HOA
AMCONSUL CAN THO
USDEL FRANCE
AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 4858

E. O. 11652 GDS
TAGS: PINT PINS MILI VS
SUBJECT: CEASEFIRE AND POLITICAL SITREP MR 1, MARCH 23, 1973

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION SAIGON FROM DANANG MAR 23
REPEATED FOR YOUR INFO

QUOTE DANANG 265

1. MILITARY ACTIVITY:

A. THREE SA-2 SITES (2 CONFIRMED, 1 PROBABLE) HAVE AGAIN BEEN IDENTIFIED FROM AERIAL PHOTOS IN THE KHE SANH AREA. EXACT LOCATION IS XD885397 SOUTHEAST OF KHE SANH AND JUST EAST OF FORMER SAM SITE. FAN SONG AND SPOONREST RADARS HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED WITH THEM.

B. INCIDENTS ROSE IN MR I TO 35, OF WHICH 29 WERE ABFS AND 5 WERE GROUND ATTACKS. AIRBORNE AO RECEIVED ONLY 1 ABF. HOWEVER, ALL THREE FIRST DIVISION REGIMENTS EXPERIENCED CONTINUED PRESSURE. IN THE CO BI- AN LO AREA THERE WERE 5 ABFS, THE VEGHEL AREA HAD 3 ABFS AND 1 GROUND ATTACK. IN THE 3 RD DIVISION AO, THE " ARIZONA TERRITORY" AND THE QUE SON AREA HAD SEVERAL

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ABF' S IN OPPOSITION TO ARVN PRESSURE. ENEMY DESTROYED BRIDGE ON PROVINCIAL ROAD NEAR DAI LOC. THROUGHOUT THE CORPS AREA, FRIENDLY FORCES SUFFERED 9 KIA AND 1 MIA; ENEMY 11 KIA, 2 CAPTURED. FRIENDLY ARTILLERY FIRED 2,282 ROUNDS, 1,014 NORTH OF THE HAI VAN PASS, 1,268 SOUTH. THERE WERE AGAIN NO NAVAL GUNFIRE OR TACTICAL AIR MISSIONS REPORTED. THROUGHOUT THE WESTERN PORTION OF MR I, PARTICULARLY IN THE ASHAU VALLEY OF THUA THIEN, THERE ARE CONTINUING REPORTS OF ROAD BUILDING, TROOP MOVEMENT, AND RESUPPLY ACTIVITY.

2. ICCS:

ON MARCH 21, THE ICCS POLISH, HUNGARIAN AND INDONESIAN MEMBERS OF THE REGION I ICCS REPORTED TO CFPJMC THAT THE ICCS WAS UNABLE TO INVESTIGATE THE CUA VIET BATTLE. A SEPARATE REPORT FORWARDED BY THE CANADIANS CITED LACK OF COOPERATION FROM THE DRV/ PRG AS THE REASON FOR THE FAILURE TO INVESTIGATE. THE REGION I ICCS HAS SO FAR FAILED TO REACH AGREEMENT ON A REPORT OF TIS FINDINGS RE-GARDING THE " VINH HOA PHOUNG INCIDENT."

3. JMC:

DURING CONVERSATION WITH POLOFF IN QUANG NAM, AN ARVN OFFICER ASSIGNED TO JMT IN HOI AN STATED THAT WORD HAD BEEN RECEIVED IN HOI AN THROUGH ARVN JMC CHANNELS THAT DRV AND PRG MEMBERS WOULD REDEPOLY TO REGION I AND II ON OR ABOUT MARCH 27.

4. COMMUNIST MILITARY ACTIVITIES:

QUANG TIN PROVINCE CHIEF, COLONEL DAO MONG XUAN, EXPRESSED TO CONSUL GENERAL MARCH 22 HIS CONVICTION THAT MONTH OF MAY OR JUNE WILL SEE A MAJOR COMMUNIST OFFENSIVE AGAINST MR I. XUAN SAID THAT COMMUNIST ARE PLANNING TO PARTICIPATE IN GENERAL ELECTIONS WITH-IN THREE MONTHS BUT RECOGNIZE THAT THEY HAVE LITTLE CHANCE OF TAKING POWER THROUGH THIS MEANS. THEY ARE THEREFORE SIMULTANEUOSLY
PREPARING TO TAKE OFFENSIVE AT A MOMENT SUITABLE TO THEIR OBJEC-TIVES, IE EITHER DURING OR JUST AFTER THE ELECTIONS. XUAN SAID HIS QUANG TIN INTELLIGENCE LEFT NO DOUBT AS TO COMMUNIST PLANS IN THIS REGARD, AND STATED THAT MANY OF HIS CURRENT EFFORTS INVOLVED PREPARING HIS SECURITY FORCES AND CIVIL ADMINISTRATION TO WITHSTAND THE NEXT ROUND OF PRESSURE FROM THE HILLS. (CONGEN COMMENT: WE HAVE RECEIVED VERY SIMILAR VIEWS FROM SEVERAL SENIOR

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ARVN OFFICERS IN THE PAST TWO WEEKS AND ARVN INTELLIGENCE REPORTS AT I CORPS LEVEL CONFIRM THE ENEMY BUILD- UPS IN WESTERN MR I, IN-CLUDING QUANG TIN. END COMMENT.)

5. POPULAR ATTITUDES:

DURING CONVERSATIONS WITH SEVERAL DANANG POLITICAL FIGURES OVER PAST WEEK, CONGEN POLITICAL OFFICER HAS NOTED A GENERAL SIMILARITY IN COMMENTS RELATING TO PRESIDENT THIEU' S UPCOMING VISIT TO US. BECAUSE PRESIDENT THIEU WILL MEET WITH PRESIDENT NIXON IN CALIF-ORNIA, AS OPPOSED TO WASHINGTON UNDER MORE " OFFICIAL" CIRCUMSTANCES,
THIS VISIT IS CLAIMED TO REPRESENT A LOSS OF PERSONAL STATUS OF THIEU AND BE INDICATIVE OF DECREASING US GOVERNMENT INTEREST IN SOUTH VIETNAM.
SINGNED BROWN UNQUOTE
BUNKER

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TAGS: MILI, PINS, PINT, VS
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FRANCE
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